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April 7, 2006

To: Chairman and Members, California Transportation Commission
California Department of Transportation
Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
County Transportation Commissions

2006 STIP Staff Recommendations

Enclosed are the California Transportation Commission staff recommendations for the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). State law requires that the Executive Director of the Commission make the staff recommendations available to the Commission, the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and regional agencies at least 20 days prior to the adoption of a new STIP. The Commission is scheduled to receive comments on these recommendations and to adopt the STIP at its April 26-27 meeting in Fresno.

The 2006 STIP will add two new programming years, 2009-10 and 2010-11, with over \$1.9 billion in new capacity. This STIP differs from prior STIPs in that it requires the programming of projects in three distinct categories, reflecting the restrictions on two of its major funding sources. The new capacity includes about \$455 million for highway projects, \$1.355 billion for rail and transit projects, and \$116 million for transportation enhancement (TE) projects. The most serious challenge facing the Commission is that project nominations from Caltrans and regional agencies far exceeded the available capacity for highway projects.

These recommendations identify specific projects and project components to be programmed for each year of the STIP. The recommendations conform to the yearly STIP capacity identified for each of the three funding categories in the fund estimate the Commission adopted in September 2005. The recommendations are based primarily on the targets identified in the fund estimate and on the priorities and scheduling recommended by regional agencies in their regional transportation improvement programs and by Caltrans in its interregional transportation improvement program.

The staff will present and update its recommendations of the first day of the Commission meeting, April 26. The adoption is scheduled for April 27.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John F. Barna Jr.", written in dark ink.

JOHN BARNA
Executive Director

Enclosure